(a) the production of aluminium and other metals at Bidhannagar Unit of Asansol;

(b) what are the reasons that its fabrication unit has not been restarted after the take over; and

(c) whether it is affecting the possibilities of establishment of downstream aluminium industries in the hinterland?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Aluminium metal and other metals are not produced by Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO) at their Bidhanbag unit of Asansol.

(b) The fabrication unit at Bidhanbag is operational ever since its management was vested with BALCO after nationalisation of erstwhile Aluminium Corpn. of India.

(c) Does not arise.

Wakf Act, 1995

2126. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many states have introduced the Wakf Act, 1995 which has come in to force from 1st January 1996, and the names of the State;

(b) which are the States who have failed to introduce the Wakf Act and the reason for introducing the Act; and

(c) what action Government propose to take against State's who are deliberately not introducing the Wakf Act, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) According to the information received 4 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and Maharashtra have already completed action for implementing the Wakf Act, 1995. The States of Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal have reported that they are in the process of implementing the Act in thier respective States. For the States of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh and the Union Terriotry of Chandigarh, there has been a composite Wakf Borad. Consequent upon the enforcement of Wakf Act, 1995, the future set up of this composite Punjab Wakf Board is under consideration of the Central Government. Union Terriotry Administrations can implement the Wakf Act, 1995 after the powers of State Government under the Wakf Act, 1995 are delegated to them. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued notification on 19.8.96 delegating the powers to Lt. Governor/ Administrator of Delhi and Pondicherry. The question of delegating similar powers to the U.T. Administrations of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Havely, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep is under consideration of the Government. Information with regard to the implementation of the Act is awaited from State Governments of Sikkim and Tripura, while the matter is under consideration of the Government of Bihar. The State Governments of Goa & Nagaland have indicated some genuine difficulties in giving effect to the provisions of th Wakf Act, 1995. The position has been clarified to them and they have been requested to reconsider the matter. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has stated that the total population of the State compraise tribal people only, while the Government of Mizoram has stated that there is no Wakf property in the State.

(c) According to the information available with the Central Government, there is no State Government, which is not implementing the Wakf Act, 1995 deliberately and therefore, the question of taking any action by the Central Government against and State Government does not arise.